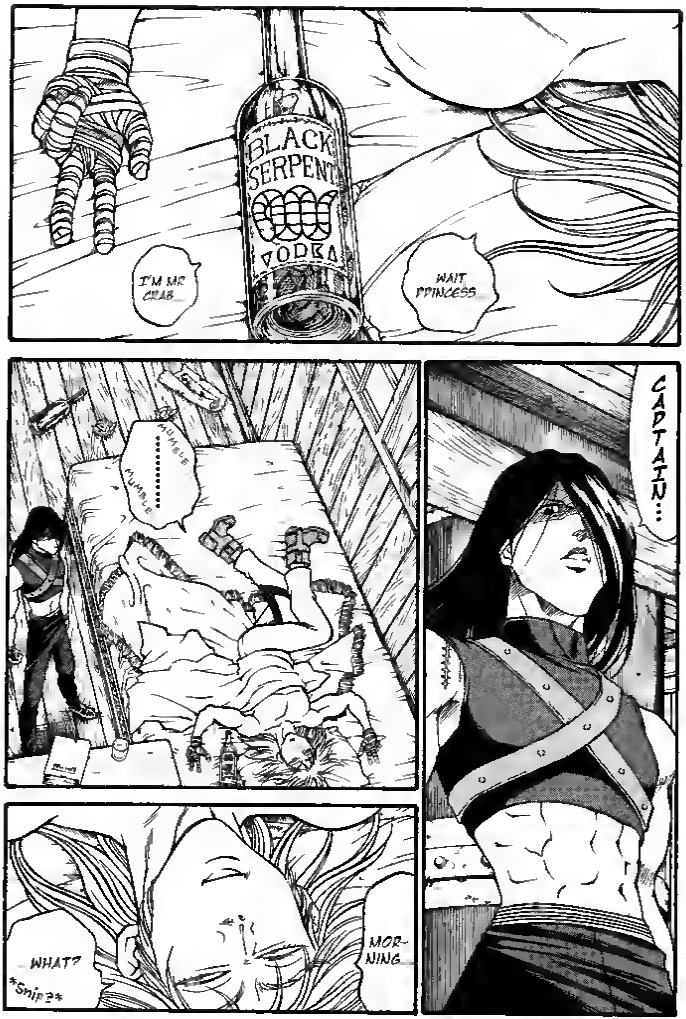
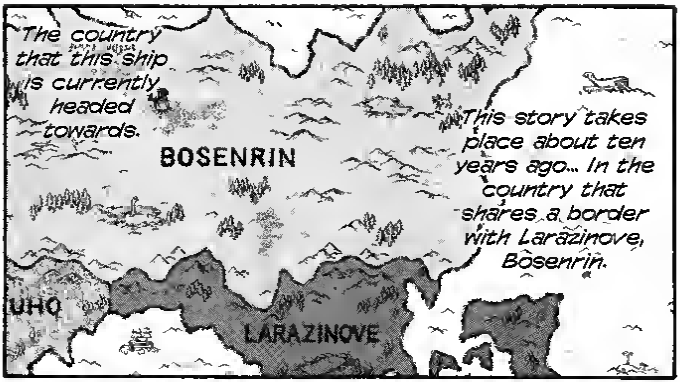
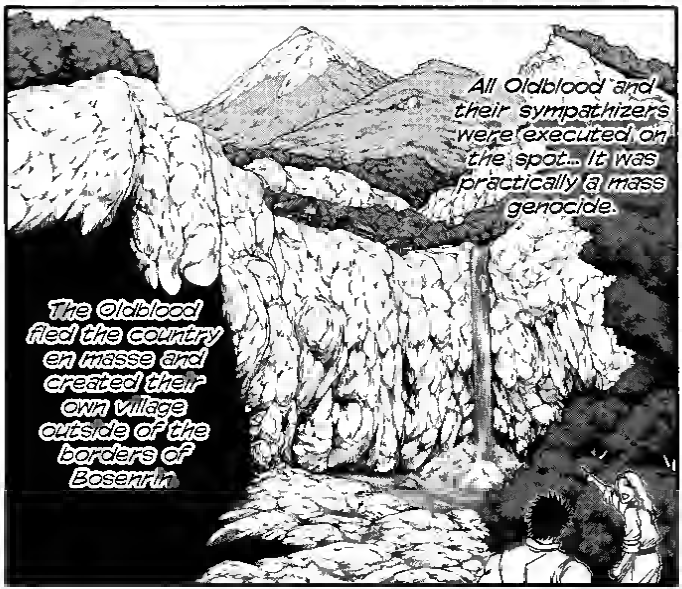
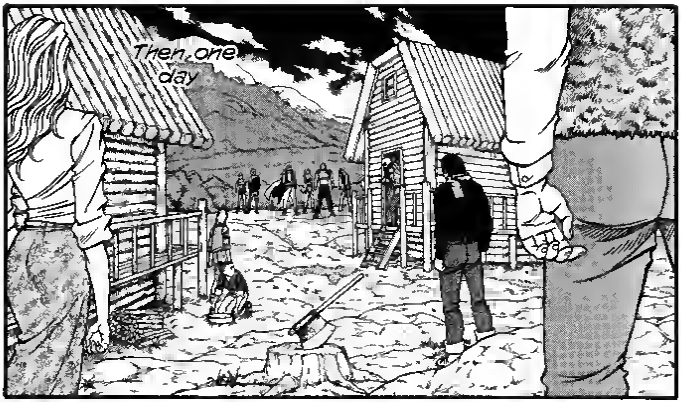
Chapter 188 ❖ Past

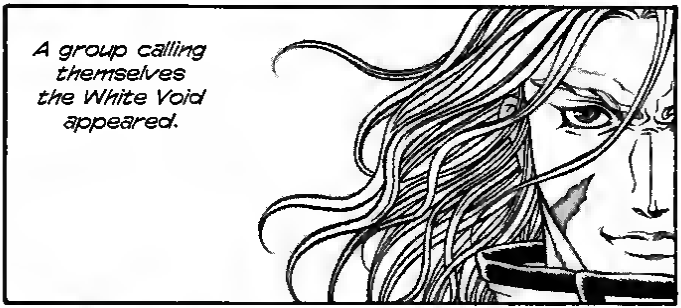

BLACK SERPENT
VODKA
I'M MR CRAB
WAIT PRINCESS
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
CAPTAIN...
WHAT?
Snip?
MOR-NING


The country that this ship is currently headed towards.
BOSENRIN
This story takes place about ten years ago... In the country that shares a border with Larazinove, Bosenrin.
UHO
LARAZINOVE

The current King Marcellus is no exception to that.
Bosenrin has a longstanding history of persecuting Oldblood.

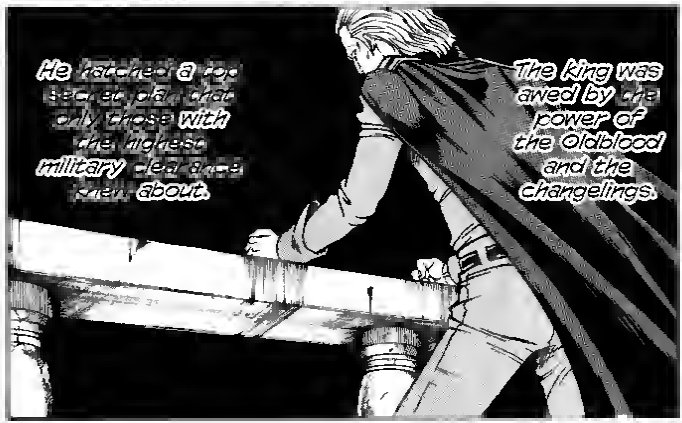

All Oldblood and their sympathizers were executed on the spot... It was practically a mass genocide.
The Oldblood fled the country en masse and created their own village outside of the borders of Boserrin

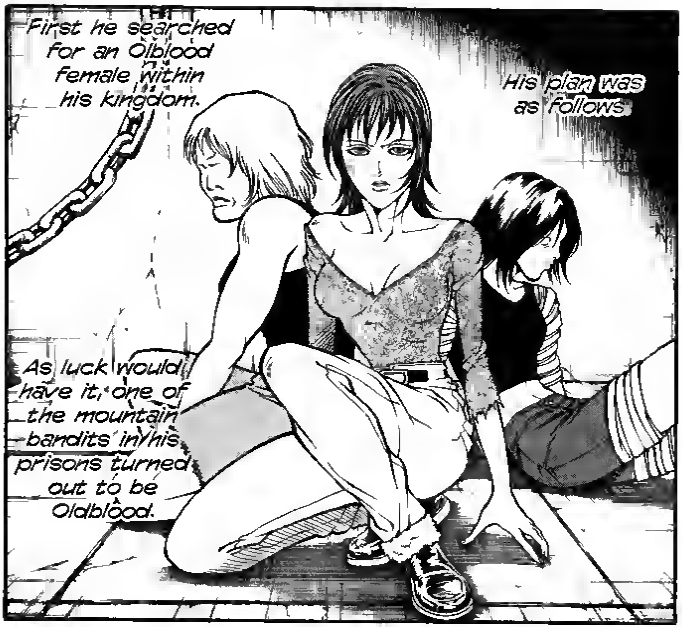

Then one day

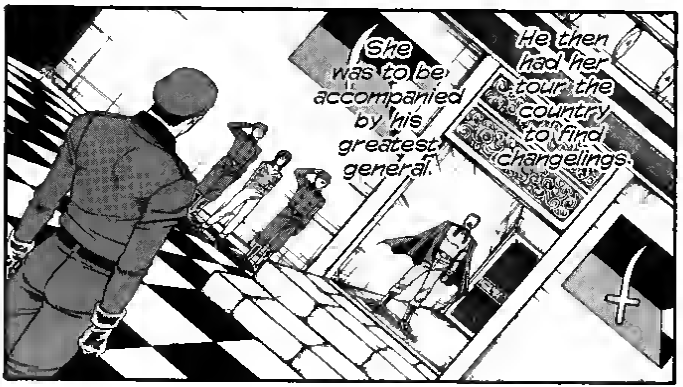

A group calling themselves the White Void appeared.

And they brought many changelings with them.

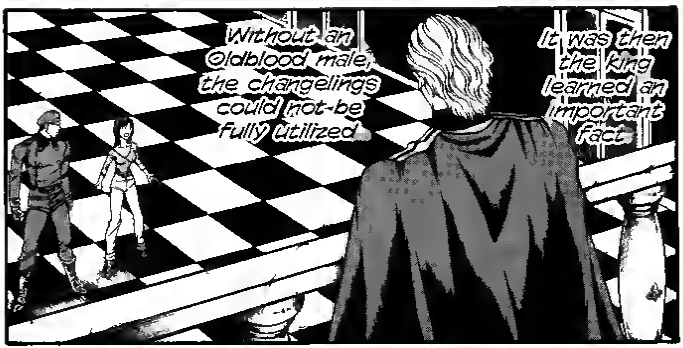
They bestowed a great new power to the oppressed Oldblood.
The Oldblood believed they could rewrite history. So they joined the White Void and left Boserrin.


The king was awed by the power of the Oldblood and the changelings.
He [illegible] a [illegible] only those with the highest military clearance knew about.


First he searched for an Oldblood female within his kingdom.
His plan was as follows.
As luck would have it, one of the mountain bandits in his prisons turned out to be Oldblood.


She was to be accompanied by his greatest general.
He then had her tour the country to find Changelings.

That man was Vanis Vrubam.
In just a few short months, Vrubam rounded up a good number of changelings.


Without an Oldblood male, the changelings could not be fully utilized.
It was then the king learned an important fact.

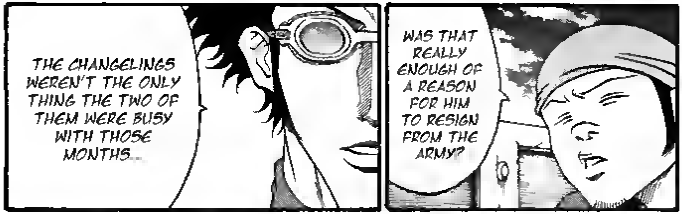
Find an Oldblood male...
Vrubam received his second order...
Gloria told Vrubam
Later, in private...
"You, too...!"
"are an Oldblood..."

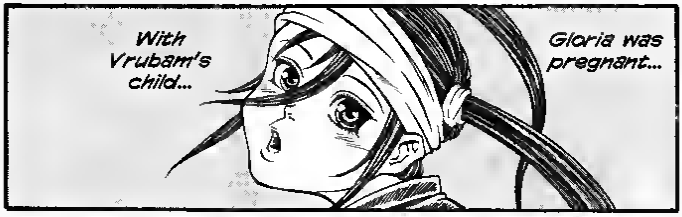
AND THEN FLED THE COUNTRY ALONGSIDE GLORIA.
VRUBAM RESIGNED FROM THE ARMY...
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ALL THAT?
SO?
YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO WANTED ME TO TALK!!
HUH? REALLY?

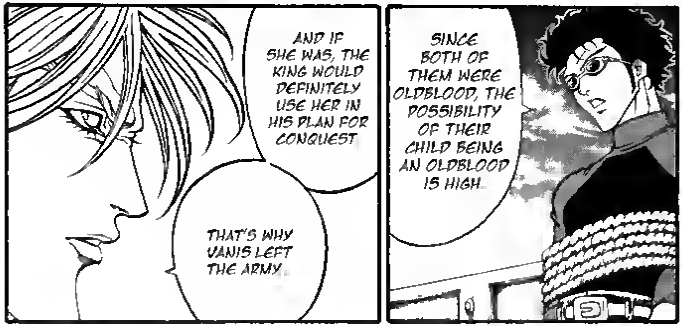
THIS IDIOT ACTUALLY BOARDED OUR SHIP AGAIN, SO DEAD AND I CAUGHT HIM.
AND THEN WHEN WE ASKED HIM WHO HE WAS...
HE GAVE US SOME COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS STORY!
...Vanis Vrubam's subordinate...
RIDIC-ULOUS STORY?
HE SAID HE USED TO BE...

YOU GUYS TOLD ME TO START FROM THE BEGINNING, SO AT LEAST LET ME GET TO MY POINT!!
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!
DON'T GET SO ENTRANCED BY HIS TALE.
CONTINUE YOUR STORY!!
AND THEN WHAT!?
SFX: ENTRANCED
THE ENTIRE PLAN?
VRUBAM TOLD ME THE ENTIRE PLAN. EVERYTHING EXCEPT GLORIA'S REVELATION.
WHY DID VRUBAM RESIGN FROM THE ARMY? HM? HM?
and conquer Lakazimove with it...
The king wanted to obtain the power of the changelings...

.....

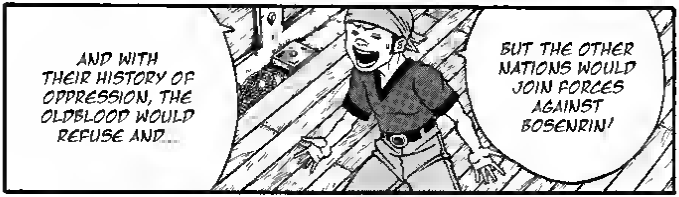

THE CHANGELINGS WEREN'T THE ONLY THING THE TWO OF THEM WERE BUSY WITH THOSE MONTHS...
WAS THAT REALLY ENOUGH OF A REASON FOR HIM TO RESIGN FROM THE ARMY?

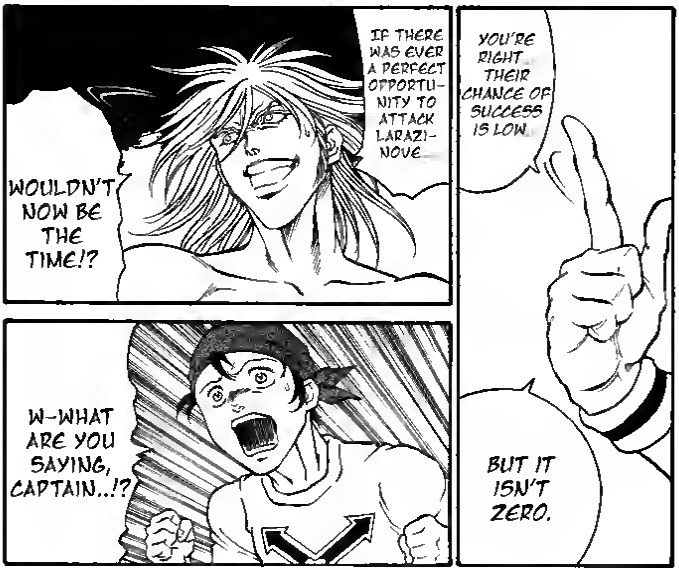

With Vrubam's child...
Gloria was pregnant...


AND IF SHE WAS, THE KING WOULD DEFINITELY USE HER IN HIS PLAN FOR CONQUEST
THAT'S WHY VANIS LEFT THE ARMY...
SINCE BOTH OF THEM WERE OLDBLOOD, THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR CHILD BEING AN OLDBLOOD IS HIGH...

SFX: GRAB
THAT WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO THOUGH, RIGHT?
THAT STORY JUST NOW!! WAS THAT ALL TRUE!?
THE PART ABOUT THE KING'S PLAN!!
AS THE KING OF LARAZINOVE, PETE, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
150 YEARS AGO, LARAZINOVE PUSHED FORTH A POLICY THAT IT WOULD NOT TRADE WITH ANY NATION THAT SUPPORTED PIRACY.
HOWEVER, BOSENRIN DISAPPROVED... AND AS A RESULT, THEIR ECONOMY AND GROWTH WERE STUNTED.
EVER SINCE THEN, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TALKS OF WAR. 150 YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO BE UNDER ANOTHER COUNTRY'S POWER...
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BOSENRIN'S MILITARY STRENGTH IS NO MATCH FOR LARAZINOVE'S.

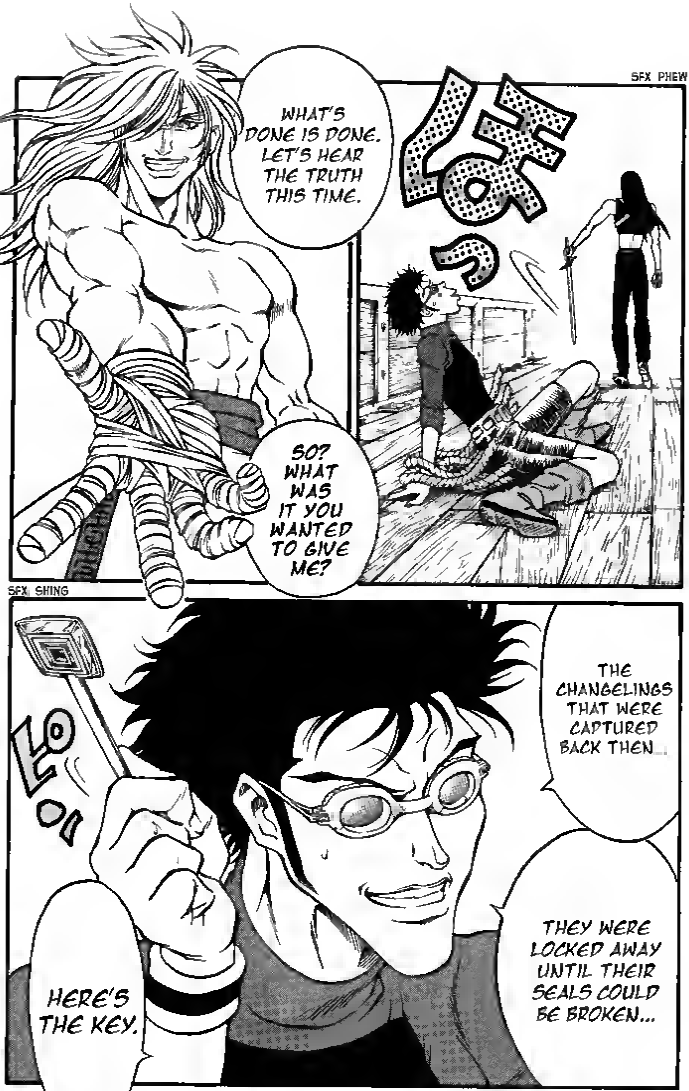
SUDDENLY ALL THAT TALK IS NO LONGER JUST TALK...!
BUT IF THEY GOT THEIR HANDS ON THE POWER OF CHANGELINGS...


AND WITH THEIR HISTORY OF OPPRESSION, THE OLDBLOOD WOULD REFUSE AND...
BUT THE OTHER NATIONS WOULD JOIN FORCES AGAINST BOSENRIN!


WOULDN'T NOW BE THE TIME!?
IF THERE WAS EVER A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK LARAZINOVE...
YOU'RE RIGHT... THEIR CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS LOW...
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CAPTAIN..!?
BUT IT ISN'T ZERO.

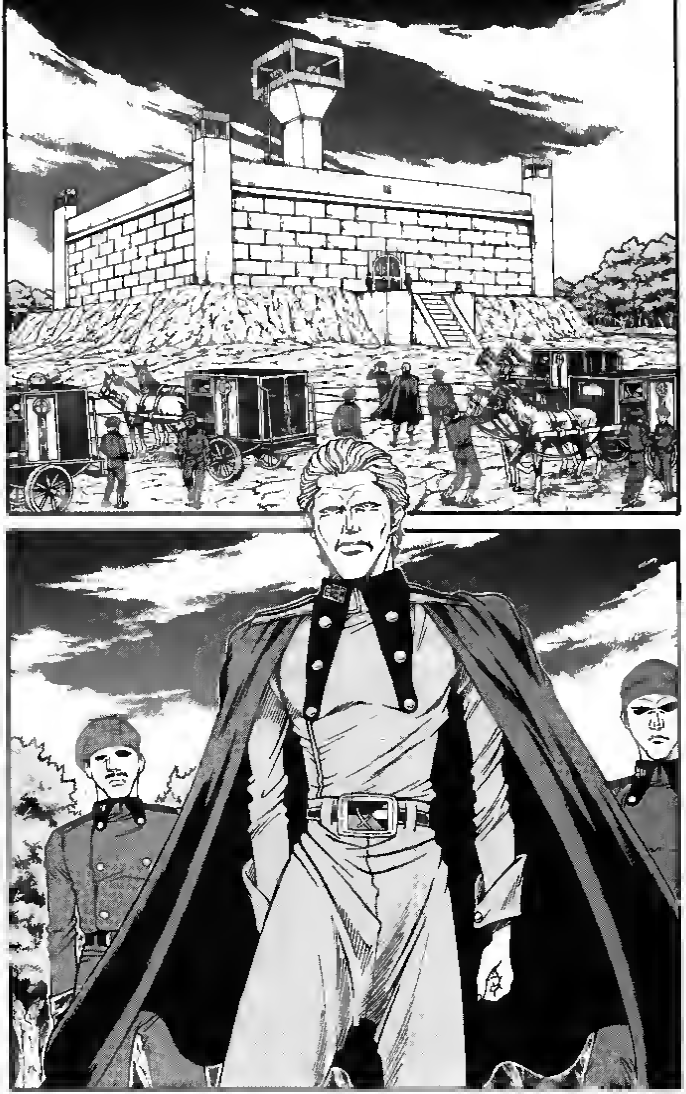
IT SEEMS TOO DETAILED TO BE A LIE, THOUGH...
EVERYTHING HE SAID JUST NOW... WAS A LIE.
HUH?
Weren't you just interested by my story?
...WHY DO YOU SAY HE'S LYING?
BUT THAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO, NOT TEN.
THE WHITE VOID APPEARING AT THE OLDBLOOD VILLAGE... I HEARD ABOUT THAT OUTSIDE A BAR WHEN IT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO...

IT'S ALL A LOAD OF CRAP!
CHAKO WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN BORN FIVE YEARS AGO!
AND THE WHITE VOID DIDN'T EVEN EXIST TEN YEARS AGO!
WAIT! YOU WANNA HEAR THE TRUTH!? OKAY, FINE, I'LL TELL YOU! JUST CUT ME LOOSE FIRST! YEAH!? YEAH!?
DID I SAY TEN YEARS? I MEANT NINE... NO, EIGHT. WAS IT SEVEN? WHAT THE HELL, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THE WORD OF SOME DRUNK OVER ME!?
SFX: BWSH!
YEAH ...?
NOOOOOOOO!!
SFX: SHINK


SFX PHEW
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. LET'S HEAR THE TRUTH THIS TIME.
SO? WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO GIVE ME?
SFX. SHING
THE CHANGELINGS THAT WERE CAPTURED BACK THEN...
THEY WERE LOCKED AWAY UNTIL THEIR SEALS COULD BE BROKEN...
HERE'S THE KEY.

SFX: WHEELS ROLLING

SFX: TROT TROT TROT TROT



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